

PREFACE

The Department of Defense (DoD) Militarily Critical Technologies List (MCTL) is a product of the militarily critical technologies program (MCTP) process. This process provides a systematic, ongoing assessment and analysis of technologies to determine those that are critical to U.S. military forces. It assigns values and parameters to the technologies and covers the worldwide technology spectrum. Technologies are selected for the MCTL through the deliberation and consensus of Technology Working Groups (TWGs). TWG chairpersons continually screen technologies and nominate items to be added to or removed from the MCTL. Working within an informal structure, TWG members who come from government, industry, and academia strive to produce precise and objective analyses across the technology areas. The MCTL contains:

- *Weapons Systems Technologies*, which details critical technologies with performance parameters that are at or above the minimum level necessary to ensure continuing superior performance of systems used by the Department of Defense and supporting entities, and
- *Developing Critical Technologies*, which lists technologies that will produce increasingly superior performance of military systems or maintain a superior capability more affordably. It focuses on worldwide technologies that will become available in the future for incorporation into U.S. weapons systems.

The legal basis of the MCTL stems from the Export Administration Act (EAA) of 1979, which assigned responsibilities for export controls to protect technologies and weapons systems. It established the requirement for DoD to compile a list of militarily critical technologies. The EAA and its provisions, as amended, have been extended by Presidential Directives.

The MCTL is not an export control list. There may be items in the MCTL that are not on an export control list. There may be items on an export control list that are not on the MCTL. The MCTL is used as a reference document for evaluating potential technology transfers and for reviewing technical reports and scientific papers for public release. The information must be applied using technical judgment. It should be used to determine if the proposed transaction would result in a transfer that would give potential adversaries access to technologies whose specific performance levels are at or above the characteristics identified as militarily critical, not whether a transfer should or should not be approved.

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